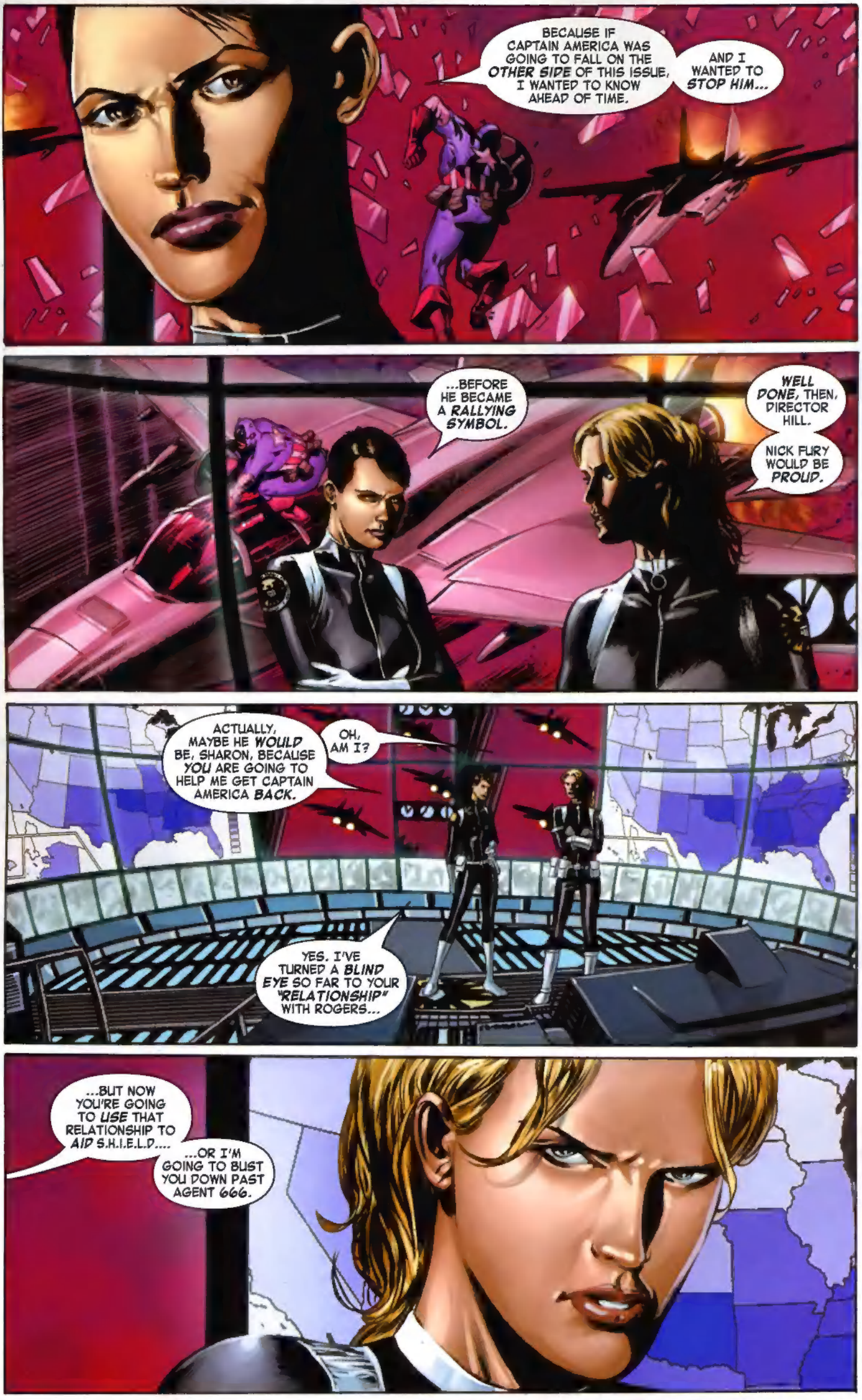
BECAUSE IF CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS GOING TO FALL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS ISSUE, I WANTED TO KNOW AHEAD OF TIME.
AND I WANTED TO STOP HIM...
...BEFORE HE BECAME A RALLYING SYMBOL.
WELL DONE, THEN, DIRECTOR HILL.
NICK FURY WOULD BE PROUD.
ACTUALLY, MAYBE HE WOULD BE, SHARON, BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO HELP ME GET CAPTAIN AMERICA BACK.
OH, AM I?
YES. I'VE TURNED A BLIND EYE SO FAR TO YOUR "RELATIONSHIP" WITH ROGERS...
...BUT NOW YOU'RE GOING TO USE THAT RELATIONSHIP TO AID S.H.I.E.L.D....
...OR I'M GOING TO BUST YOU DOWN PAST AGENT 666.

AND I KNEW THAT MY "RELATIONSHIP" WITH HIM WOULD BE USED AGAINST ME, SOMEHOW.
MAYBE WHAT MADE ME SO MAD WAS THAT I WASN'T SURE WHY I OBJECTED.
"I MEAN, I WAS FOR THE REGISTRATION.
"OTHER THAN CAP AND THE FALCON, I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH USE FOR COSTUMED HEROES.
"SO, WHY DID I STICK TO MY GUNS WITH MARIA HILL, THEN?
"AS DAYS PASSED, AND I WATCHED AS STEVE BUILT A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, WATCHED HIM FIGHT HIS BEST FRIENDS TOOTH AND NAIL...
"...SAW THE DAMAGE HE WAS DOING BY PUTTING HIMSELF ABOVE THE LAW..."
...WHY DIDN'T I AGREE TO HELP S.H.I.E.L.D. CATCH HIM RIGHT AWAY?
PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BETRAY THE MAN YOU LOVE?
NO, THAT'S... THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS...

SEE, I LIVE IN THE MILITARY. I LIVE BY ORDERS, DOCTOR...
...AND ANY GOOD SOLDIER KNOWS THAT ORDERS COME BEFORE FRIENDSHIP...
"WHICH IS WHAT I WAS THINKING AFTER DUM-DUM DUGAN LED A TEAM TO TAKE DOWN CAP...AND FAILED..."
YOU LOOK LIKE HELL, DUGAN...
AH...IT LOOKS WORSE'N IT FEELS...
CAPE-KILLER HERE TOOK MOST'A THE BRUNT.
LIKE I'M BETTIN' CAP KNEW IT WOULD.
YEAH. THAT'S A SAFE BET.
STILL, WHAT A NAME... CAPE-KILLER.
YEAH...SOME DAYS RETIREMENT STARTS TO LOOK LESS AN' LESS BORING...

YOU DO.
YOU'RE JUST CONFLICTED.
NO, STEVE...I... I'M AFRAID FOR YOU.
"YOU'RE LIKE ME, A SOLDIER...YOU KNOW THE RISKS YOU'RE TAKING..."
YOU'RE WILLING TO DIE FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE.
AND I DON'T WANT THE MAN I LOVE DYING...
"...NOT FOR THIS CAUSE."
DIRECTOR HILL, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM HERE.

MARVEL HEROES HOTSPOT

"Righting wrongs and lefting rights"

TOM SEZ

The No-Prize. A Marvel tradition.

The No-Prize originated as a joke, back in the early 60s, in the letters page in FANTASTIC FOUR #26. Stan Lee ran a contest, asking people to send in their definition of what "The Marvel Age of Comics" really meant, and indicated that there'd be "no prizes" so there'd be no losers. But the term stuck in his lexicon, and eventually, at about the same time that the Merry Marvel Marching Society was formed, Stan had a bunch of special envelopes printed up, indicating that the recipient's No-Prize was enclosed. The envelopes, of course, were empty.

Stan would send these out to whomever he felt was worthy, for "meritorious service to the cause of Marveldom." He'd often get letters from kids who didn't get the joke, and who thought their No-Prize must've fallen out of the envelope. But there was never any rhyme or reason to how he distributed these things--it was just a fun little gimmick.

Years later, Mark Gruenwald chose to regiment the conditions which qualified a person to receive a No-Prize. Mark decided that a No-Prize would be issued to any letter writer who not only pointed out a mistake in a Marvel comic, but then explained why it wasn't actually a mistake. This action increased the number of nit-picky letters Marvel received tenfold.

No-Prizes were never sent out all that regularly, but they pretty much stopped being given completely after Marvel went into bankruptcy (though Stan apparently sent No-Prizes out to those letter writers who asked him a question that got printed in his Soapbox column in the late 90s).

But now, with the ease of e-mail, sending out a No-Prize, digital style, is as easy as the click of a mouse key--"No-Spam", if you like. And, like Stan, I think I'll be issuing them not for nit-pickery, but for whatever strikes my fancy. "Meritorious service" will be the watchword.

So let the call go forth: No-Prizes are a' waitin' for those that want to earn them!

Tom B

ITEM! We'd like to start out this month by congratulating J. Michael Straczynski, who recently sold an original screenplay for a big budget feature film to Ron Howard's Imagine Entertainment! We can't give away any of the details of the story, but filming is slated to begin as early as January, meaning the picture could be at your local multiplex by next winter! Nicely done, Joe--and remember, we knew you when!

ITEM! It's hard to believe that it's been 65 years since Stan "The Man" Lee started working for (mighty) Marvel (especially since Stan is only nineteen or twenty years old, tops!). But to celebrate this momentous occasion, we've prevailed upon the grand master to lend his talents to a series of specials in which he'll interact with the greatest characters that ever flowed from his imagination! In addition, we've called upon the biggest names in Marveldom--guys with monikers like Whedon, Bendis, Jenkins, Bagley, Loeb, McGuiness and Thomas--to pen their own personal tales of tribute to the Man! And we've also unearthed some of the most awesome adventures written by Stan to round out the package! Better grab your copies while they're available--it'll be 2071 before we're able to pull this kind of stunt again!

ITEM! Did ya catch our leader Joe Quesada's triumphant appearance on Comedy Central's The Colbert Report last month? Joey Q spent the segment talking about the CIVIL WAR conflict now rampaging through the Marvel Universe--at least when Colbert didn't have him on the defensive for encouraging children to read! Our thanks to Stephen Colbert for keeping it real--it's moments like these the V-chip was invented for!

ITEM! If you're not checking out the new editorial blogs at Marvel.com, you're missing out on the most bombastically useless waste of bandwidth in what used to be referred to as cyberspace! Where else can you go to learn deathless insider information such as Ralph Macchio's lunch order, straight from the House of Ideas to your own home computer? So set your browser to http://www.marvel.com/blogs/ to get in on the madness! It's the perfect way to kill five productive minutes!

AUBREY'S OUT-OF-CONTEXT FUNNIES

"AND ALTHOUGH HE'S BIG AND STRONG, I'D LOVE TO LOOK AFTER HIM! HE'D COMPLAIN ABOUT MY FUSSING, BUT I KNOW THAT HE'D SECRETLY ENJOY IT..."
YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER...
NONSENSE! YOUR HAMMER WILL LOOK MORE IMPRESSIVE POLISHED!

This month's doozy comes from JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #89, FEB. 1964!

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 2006

ANNIHILATION #2: Can anything withstand the attack of Ravenous?

BEYOND #3: The return of Deathlok!

BLADE #1: Spider-Man--a vampire! Dracula! Bloodsucking fourth-graders! And that's just for starters!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #22: A CIVIL WAR tie-in. Captain America--Public Enemy!

CIVIL WAR #5: Changing alliances! Villains unleashed! And the Punisher!

CIVIL WAR: FRONTLINE #7: The assassination of Speedball!

CIVIL WAR: FRONTLINE #8: The Green Goblin strikes!

CIVIL WAR: YOUNG AVENGERS & RUNAWAYS #3: The destructive return of Marvel Boy!

FANTASTIC FOUR #541: A CIVIL WAR tie-in. Sue & Reed--splitsville?

IRON MAN #12: Iron Man must battle his own creations gone rogue!

JACK KIRBY'S GALACTIC BOUNTY HUNTERS #3: Guest-starring Captain Victory and his Galactic Rangers!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #24: Freedom Ring! Crusader! Iron Maniac! And those hot new characters, the New Avengers!

MS. MARVEL #7: A CIVIL WAR tie-in. Ms. Marvel and Wonder Man must bring in one of their own!

NEW AVENGERS #24: A CIVIL WAR tie-in. The Sentry vs. the Inhumans on the moon!

SHE-HULK #12: The trial of Starfox!

SPIDER-MAN: BLACK AND BLUE AND READ ALL OVER: Spidey makes a fateful deal with J. Jonah Jameson.

STAN LEE MEETS SPIDER-MAN #1: Why does the web-slinger need "The Man's" help?

STAN LEE MEETS DOCTOR STRANGE #1: Stan visits the Sorcerer Supreme!

THUNDERBOLTS #106: Zemo prepares to unleash his superhuman army on the Grandmaster!

UNION JACK #1: Britain's premier super hero has just hours to prevent multiple terrorist attacks on London!

X-FACTOR #11: X-Factor uncovers the secret of Singularity Investigations!

FIVE FUN FACTOIDS FROM MOLLY LAZER

(EDITOR OF SPIDER-GIRL AND RUNAWAYS)

1) In 2007, I will have performed in 7 of Gilbert and Sullivan's 14 operas.
2) In college, I got vacuum-power staple-gunned in the face. By accident, of course.
3) The first comic book that my father read to me when I was little was FANTASTIC FOUR #5. The first comic book I bought for myself when I was older was ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN #22.
4) I own almost 50 books written by Stephen King.
5) My first pet was a parakeet named Little Louie, after a bird on *Square One*, the best math-related educational television show EVER.

E-MAIL: MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
MARK E-MAIL "OKAY TO PRINT"